

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 /111 W

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R 191011Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1505

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

USUN NEW YORK 327

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR SO OAU

SUBJ: OAU SUMMIT TO BE HELD IN MOGADISCIO IN JUNE 1974

1. FONOFF DIRECTOR GENERAL INFORMED AMBASSADOR THAT DATE FOR OAU SUMMIT IN MOGADISCIO NOW PLANNED FOR SECOND WEEK OF JUNE 1974.

2. ETHIOPIAN AMBASSADOR BELIEVES THIS DATE WILL HOLD, AND THAT OAU COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WILL CONVENE WEEK PRIOR, PRESUMABLY JUNE 3.

3. COMMENT: (A) SOMALIS STILL HAVE A DISTANCE TO GO IN PHYSICALLY PREPARING FOR CONFERENCE -- PARTICULARLY VIP HOUSING AND TELECOMMUNICATION FACILITIES FOR PRESS. SOME GSDR OFFICIALS HAVE PRESSED THAT OAU SUMMIT BE COMBINED WITH REGIME'S FIFTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION IN LATE OCTOBER 1974. THIS RAN UP AGAINST REALITIES OF OAU AND UN TIMETABLES. FINACE WILL ALSO BE A PROBLEM: FUNDS ARE SHORT, PRICES ARE HIGH. DESPITE THESE OBSTACLES WE BELIEVE SOMALIS ARE DETERMINED TO HOST THE SUMMIT TO SHOW THEY ARE IN THE AFRICAN MAJOR LEAGUE AND TO DEMONSTRATE TO THEIR ETHIOPIAN NEIGHBORSHAT THE OAU IS NOT SYNONYMOUS

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WITH ADDIS.

(B) HOLDING THE SUMMIT IN MOGADISCIO MAY BE HELPFUL FROM MANY STANDPOINTS. AS WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY NOTED, SOMALI HOSTS WILL PROBABLY GO EASY ON SABER RATTLING ABOUT THE OGADEN DURING THE NEXT SIX MONTHS. MOREOVER, SINCE SIAD AUTOMATICALLY BECOMES OAU CHAIRMAN FOR ONE YEAR AFTER THE SUMMIT, HE WILL BE ANXIOUS TO DISPLAY PERSONAL IMAGE OF LEADER OF AFRICA AND THEREFORE WILL FEEL PRESSURES TO KEEP THE TERRITORIAL DISPUTE UNDER WRAPS FOR THAT PERIOD. KIRK

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Disposition Event:
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